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Learn Facts About Military Strength

One day we read one thing about Russia's military power the next we read another thing. About all the conflict of evidence proves is that it is extremely difficult to prove anything behind the Iron Curtain.

One of the first jobs of Allen Dulles, who succeeds General Walter Bedell Smith as head of Central Intelligence Agency, will be to narrow the range of known facts into a core of solid blueprints. Estimates of Russian air strength run all the way from 8,000 operating military planes to 18,000. Some experienced air officers doubt if she could bring more than 4,000 to bear against European objectives.

It is safer to err on the side of too big an estimate rather than too small, yet neither estimate is of much value unless backed by facts. The huge physical size of Russia may have frightened us into assuming she has correspondingly big military power. One advantage of having a military man in the White House is that he will not be satisfied with halfway conclusions; he will demand evidence and weigh it on the scales of technical knowledge.

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